



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily

Monday
6 December 1982

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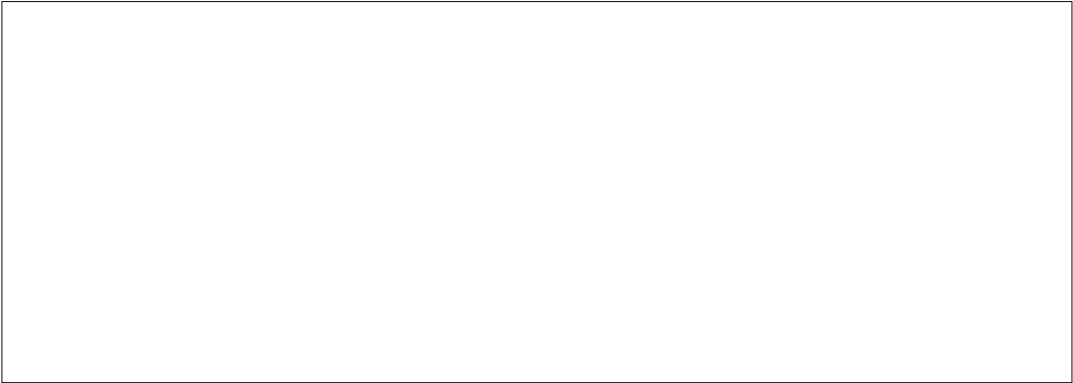
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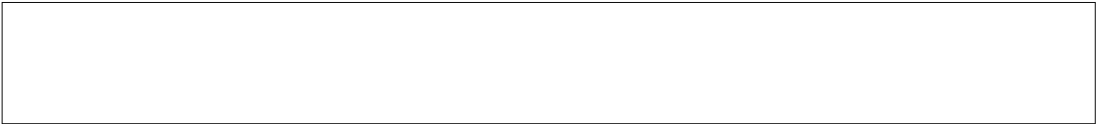
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UK: Concern Over INF

The Conservatives are looking for ways to forestall growing opposition to INF. [redacted]

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British officials have told the US Embassy that Prime Minister Thatcher is becoming concerned over the domestic political repercussions of INF deployment in a possible election year. An official close to the Prime Minister has indicated increasing interest in "dual key" arrangements, under which assurances would be given that US nuclear weapons based in the UK are under the control of both London and Washington. [redacted]

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Other officials are pushing for completion of a NATO study of possible reductions in shorter range nuclear systems. Some reportedly are expressing sympathy for the idea that INF equipment deliveries scheduled for spring be delayed until late next year, closer to the time of actual cruise missile deployment. [redacted]

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Comment: Thatcher almost certainly is aware that any hint of British backtracking would endanger the program in other basing countries. The British are on schedule with their basing preparations, and they have argued against West German pleas to delay arrival of INF equipment. The Prime Minister is unlikely to take any action that could be construed as a sign of faltering resolve. [redacted]

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The remarks of the British officials nevertheless are the first evidence that the general election may influence policy on INF. Tory strategists are concerned about polls showing growing opposition to INF and skepticism about US policies. They would like to undercut support for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament's plan to launch a civil disobedience drive. [redacted]

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To exploit voter support for a national deterrent, the Tories will want to play up London's role in nuclear weapons decisionmaking. They also probably will try to forestall criticism that Thatcher is taking too hard a line by emphasizing the need to make the Soviets appear responsible for lack of progress in arms control negotiations. [redacted]

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KENYA: Increasing Tribal Tensions

2 Leaders of Kenya's largest and most influential tribe, the Kikuyu, fear that President Moi is determined to purge members of the tribe from the government. They believe that election irregularities by Moi's supporters prevented one of their members from winning a recent byelection for a National Assembly seat in a predominantly Kikuyu district. A member of Moi's small Kalenjin tribe won the election. One Kikuyu official told the US Embassy that the Kikuyu are dissatisfied with what they see as US and British support for Moi's internal political policies, including his efforts to suppress the opposition.

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3 Comment: Moi has rejected advice that he replace several Kikuyu cabinet ministers. Nevertheless, the belief that he is working against the tribe's interests may enable Kikuyu leaders to overcome factional divisions that have damaged the group's political power. The President's support has eroded during the past year, and it would be impossible for him to maintain his position for long against strong Kikuyu opposition.

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[redacted]

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⑩ CHINA-US: Proposal To Resume Textile Talks

China has retreated from its hardline position on bilateral textile trade in an effort to resume negotiations before the agreement expires at the end of this month. Chinese chief negotiator Li Dengshan on Saturday offered to discuss several issues that he had been unwilling to address during the talks last month. He stressed, however, that China must receive more favorable treatment than do large suppliers of textiles to the US--Taiwan, Hong Kong, and South Korea--and suggested an overall growth rate of 6 percent. The Chinese rejected as "preconditions" Washington's suggested baselines for resuming talks, but they did not criticize US textile trade policy as they did when discussions began last August. [redacted]

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3 Comment: China probably is anxious to conclude a new agreement before the end of the year to avoid possible US-imposed unilateral controls that would sharply reduce its textile exports. The proposal reflects the considerable pressure Beijing is under to increase exports, and it provides a basis for further negotiations. [redacted]
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